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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 28 June 1951

SUBJECT Military Fortifications Throughout  
Bulgaria

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. In the past fortifications were maintained in the interior of the country at Shumen, Sofia, Pleven, and Vidin, but these have been neglected and are no longer used; there are now no fortifications in the interior of Bulgaria.
2. Since the summer of 1950 serious efforts have been made to fortify the Yugoslav border. These fortifications are especially strong around Bregovo, Kula and Belogradchik. They consist mainly of barbed wire fences and earthen breastworks, and are designed to stop or slow down the advance of the Yugoslav Army into northern Bulgaria. In the area of Stanintsi, Kalotina, Nedelishte and Vrabcha there are also earthen breastworks and sporadic barbed wire entanglements. Because these towns are on the important route to Sofia, work has started on renewing the historical Slivnitsa Position. As part of this program, during December of 1950, approximately 50 old Mark IV German tanks were imbedded in permanent emplacements. Similar fortifications are being built in the area west of Kyustendil towards Gyushevo. There are indications that along certain roads and paths small and sporadic mine fields have been placed; the local inhabitants have been forbidden to pass through such areas. In December 1950 one labor battalion from Sofia and one from Radomir were taken to the Yugoslav frontier to work on fortifications and trenches.
3. Fortifications along the Greek frontier had not been fully completed by January 1951. In some areas, such as that near the Mesta River, a wire fence was put up and interwoven with sticks. In the Rodopi sector fences were put up, using fallen trees and brush. It has been rumored that mines were placed in some areas along this line. During the summer of 1950 the main bridges across the Struma, Mesta, Arda and other rivers were permanently mined.
4. During World War II a defense line was erected along the Turkish and Greek frontier opposite Svilengrad, in order to protect the Maritsa River approach in Bulgaria. This defense line does not have any depth; it is composed of one line of concrete bunkers for heavy machine guns, surrounded by trenches. In front of the bunkers there are several strands of barbed wire. Some locations in the rear have been prepared by erecting cement mounds, in case

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they are needed as machine gun or gun emplacements. These bunkers are thickest in the area around Svilengrad and Dervishka Mogila. From there to the east along the Strandzha Mountains there is only a line of earthen breastworks. Last year many trees were cut down in the Svilengrad area and along the Maritsa River to improve observation and fields of fire. Because the bunkers had filled with water, rust had eaten the wire fences, and the breastworks had caved in, a renovation program was started in 1950.

5. The coastal defense of Varna is comprised of one artillery brigade with heavy coastal guns mounted in concrete positions. There are sporadic earthworks and trenches around the guns and near the seacoast, for occupation by infantry soldiers. The heaviest batteries are mounted in the area called Trakata on the Varna-Evksinograd road. There is another battery in the area of Galata.

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